

12/24/69

Dear Moo,

I've read about a quarter of Brener's book. It is fascinating.

Not his horseshit but that he did it at all and then how he did it. This book has a purpose, and it is not to make money and, because it is not honest, it is not to "expose" Jim. Nor was the book itself intended to be of use in the campaign, for it wasn't out in time when it could have been. For serialization, there didn't have to be any book. The articles were enough.

Potter is a small publisher. No book except a runaway best-seller makes enough money to repay a lawyer with any practise at all for the time it takes from his practise. Brener has better things to do, and from what little I've heard of him he is able, has a good practise and gets good fees. Therefore, I find myself wondering why he did this book. Perhaps, when I get further into it, I may get more solid evidence of suspicious thus far warranted but possibly wrong. His more-than-Warren-Commission care with what he omits, what he slides around, what he twists, is provocative. I cannot satisfy myself with the explanation he was out to "get" Jim, for I believe if this were the case he'd have had the book out earlier, used it as the means of getting TV time around the country, etc.

I'd love to see the sales records. Not the total number, but who got how many in large quantities. (Crown is the distributor, but such large orders, if there are any, would not likely be handled by them.)

And I keep thinking of "Farewell America", which also could never begin to pay for itself. One coin, two sides?

Anyway, if you or Jim have any hunches, suspicions - or knowledge - I'd like to know. Having read some of it since writing him, there seems to me to be certain possibilities, once there is something on which to go.

And his partner represents Tom? Tom has that kind of money? Or Martens (who he pleads guilty!)?

But I like his babbling. Anxious to see what Bringuer slips out in his book, which is not by his usual Hergis.

Haven't been able to do anything with the Campbell leads because I'm tied down to my King/Ray book, which has very current and very hot stuff in it and have had to stay close to home because Lil has had a strep throat. But I have learned that Thorpe had scads of Western 6.5 bullets. Interesting?

Hope Jim is convalescing comfortably, that the operation is a success, and that the sick time is providing an opportunity to catch up with the reading we never have time for. He may be interested in two black-written books rather informative on current black thinking. I've read them in pieces during the past several months. "The Spook Who Sat by the Door", by Sam Willison and "Revolutionary Notes", by Julius Lester. Both published by Richard Baron. Tough stuff.

Now that the runoff is over and you've had a break and the pressure is off the office, how about getting the transcripts copies for me?

Hope you all have a good holiday.

Sincerely,